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# **News Release**

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## **Little Canada man indicted on child pornography charges**

A 23-year-old Little Canada man was indicted yesterday in federal court on several child pornography charges.

Aaron Jay Lemon was charged Aug. 5 in Minneapolis with one count of production of child pornography, one count of distribution of child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography.

Lemon's indictment alleges that in August 2007 he did knowingly, employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct. It also alleges that on Dec. 5, 2006, Lemon did knowingly distribute a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct via a computer.

The indictment also alleges that on June 17, 2008, Lemon did knowingly possess matter, which contained a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Lemon faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison on the production count, 15 years on the distribution count and 10 years on the possession count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Paul Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Newberry.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to

sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.